

Land Use

Land use in the study areas is managed through comprehensive plans prepared for each jurisdiction and guided by county planning policies in accordance with the state's Growth Management Act (GMA). Under the Growth Management Act, cities and counties plan for growth, establish commercial and residential zones, and approve variances to those decisions. Transportation projects managed by WSDOT are built in response to the congestion and public safety issues surrounding a growing state. Highway construction projects reinforce local land use plans by concentrating growth in the urban area, rather than promoting sprawl.

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) has adopted multi-region planning policies provided by GMA. The PSRC has also adopted VISION 2020 – a long-range growth management, economic development, and transportation strategy – and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan to guide the region's transportation investments in the central Puget Sound region.

DEIS Maps

The land use map – [“Current Land Use Patterns”](#) – listed under DEIS Maps is of the present land use pattern. The map is based on information compiled through King County's geographic information system (GIS). The intended level of detail is that suitable for a corridor-level environmental review.

The land use categories used are:

- Forest,
- Open space,
- Agriculture,
- Commercial,
- Industrial,
- Residential,
- Government,
- Right of way,
- Mixed,
- Other land use, and
- Undefined.

The other map in the DEIS Expertise report, [“Alternative 3 Projects w/Current Land Use,”](#) contains the same information, with Alternative 3 projects (both highway and transit) overlain onto the land use map.

RS/GIS Maps

The map – [“Current Land Use Pattern”](#) listed under RS/GIS Maps – classifies land uses that were identified by automated classification of Landsat-7 imagery based on spectral signatures, supplemented by field verification and validation. The resulting database was overlain onto a standard map-template that has major roads, lakes, places, and other features.

The land use categories used are:

- Forest,

- Grass and shrubs,
- Residential,
- Commercial,
- Water,
- Farmland,
- Transportation,
- Industrial, and
- Urban built-up, mixed, or unclassified.

The map reflects land-cover information from the remotely sensed imagery, and identifies areas of grass and shrub land cover within what could be classified as residential areas.

The other map listed under RS/GIS Maps, [“Alternative 3 Projects w/Current Land Use,”](#) shows Alternative 3 projects (both highway and transit) overlain onto the RS/GIS land use map.